

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 08500 280831Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W
-----280839Z 007568 /21

R 280825Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2110
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 8500

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JA, TW
SUBJECT: REACTION TO NEW JAPANESE PREMIER

1. PUBLIC REACTION TO FUKUDA'S ELECTION HAS BEEN FAVORABLE, AND HIS WELL-KNOWN PAST SYMPATHIES WITH TAIWAN HAVE BEEN CONDUCIVE TO SPECULATION THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION WILL LOOK WITH MORE FAVOR ON JAPAN'S TAIWAN CONNECTION. HOWEVER, THERE IS LITTLE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE FEELING THAT THE NEW PREMIER WILL MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE CURRENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. THE GENERAL HOPE IS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITHIN THE LIMITS ALREADY DEFINED, PARTICULARLY IN REDUCING THE TRADE DEFICIT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT LAST WEEK THAT THE FIRST RESIDENT JAPANESE NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENT IN RECENT YEARS WILL ARRIVE IN JANUARY IS VIEWED HERE AS A POSSIBLE HARBINGER OF A WARMER JAPAN/TAIWAN CLIMATE. (COMMENT: THE SANKEI SHIMBUN, WHICH IS DISPATCHING THE REPORTER, HAS HAD WELL-CONNECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN TAIPEI FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS EDITING THE SERIALIZED MEMOIRS OF CHIANG KAI-SHEK.)
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